



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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**NEW PUBLICATION FROM
RI HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION:
NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY IN RHODE ISLAND**

Native American Archaeology in Rhode Island is the title of the latest publication by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. Illustrated with 46 drawings and photographs, the 64-page book presents the results of more than thirty years of research by the state's archaeologists—from excavating sites, studying found materials, collecting information, working with professional archaeologists in the area, and consulting with Native American tribes.

The book's first section traces Native American settlement beginning with the first archaeological evidence ca. 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, and continues with the establishment of coastal villages ca. 2,500 to 3,500 years ago, the effects of European settlement in the 1600's, and federal tribal recognition in the 1980's. The second section focuses on archaeological methodology—from research and excavation to documentation and analysis.

The third section discusses how archaeological sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and provides examples of important sites and places in each city and town. The National Register is the federal government's official list of properties that are significant in American history and worthy of preservation. The benefits of National Register listing include

the recognition of a site's importance, assurance of professional evaluation, eligibility for certain financial incentives for preservation, and review of state or federal activities that may impact the site. Every town and city in Rhode Island has archaeological evidence of Native American use from the ceremonial sites at Mount Hope in Bristol to the Oaklawn Soapstone Quarry in Cranston. The book also provides a bibliographic essay that reviews some of the sources used in preparing this report and makes suggestions for further reading.

Native American Archaeology in Rhode Island was a collaborative effort. State archaeologists consulted with Narragansett tribal officials, professional archaeologists and archaeology professors, and staff at other state agencies. Much of the work represented in the book was funded through state and federal projects and reviewed by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Coastal Resources Management Council.

Copies of the book are available for \$15 at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission in Providence. To order a copy of the book, call the Commission at 401-222-3103, email rcarreiro@rihphc.state.ri.us, or stop by the Commission office at 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903.

NOTE: Review copies are available upon request from Sarah Zurier, RIHPHC
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